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ROCKET PROPULSION ESTABLISHMENT

WESTCOTT, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

AD 323746

R.P.E. TECHNICAL NOTE No: 195

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE GOSLING II SOLID PROPELLENT ROCKET MOTOR

by

E. C. WHITE

OCTOBER, 1960

PICATINNY ARSENAL TECHNICAL INFORMATION SECTION

INV 90



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Technical Note No. 195
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ROCKET PROPULSION ESTABLISHMENT

WESTCOTT

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE GOSLING II SOLID PROPELLENT ROCKET MOTOR

by

E. C. White

10. OTIA 10735

SUMMARY

The development of a motor in which the cordite charge of the Gosling I is replaced by a case-bonded plastic propellent is described.

Using the same motor tube an increase of 40% in total impulse was obtained, with a motor operating reliably within the temperature limits -5 to 50°C. These limits are sufficiently wide for a boost motor in the development phases of a guided missile or high speed test vehicle.

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1 INTRODUCTION

This note describes the development of the Gosling II rocket motor which was produced, primarily as a development exercise, at R.P.E. Westcott, but also with the intention of having a design available to meet a possible future use requirement.

The history of ground-to-air missiles has shown a continuing trend towards higher performance boost motors, as shown in the following table:-

Motor	Number of boosts per missile set	Total impulse per set, lb - sec
Demon	8	180,000
Mayfly III	4	208,000
Mayfly IV	4	236,000
Gosling I	4	250,000

In view of this background, the desirability of a boost motor of higher performance, which, if required, would be capable of replacing the Gosling I motor was apparent. The simplest method of effecting this was considered to be by replacing with plastic propellent the cordite charge used in Gosling I and utilising the motor tube of the existing design. A similar procedure had been adopted in developing the Mayfly IV motor which is a plastic propellent version of Mayfly I and retains the same tube.

Since the new motor was produced purely for development purposes the desired feature was the highest total impulse attainable in the shortest burning time. On examination it was found that the charge conduit design used with the Mayfly IV motor would be suitable for the 10-inch diameter Gosling tube, giving a charge weight of 405 lb. A propellent having a predicted specific impulse of 215 lb-sec/lb would enable a total impulse of 87,000 lb-sec to be developed.

2 MOTOR DESIGN

2.1 Empty components

The Gosling motor tube (Fig.1) is of conventional design comprising a wrapped and welded shell in 16 swg steel to specification SAE4130 to which are welded the head-end pressing and rear-end threaded ring. The tube is subjected to a hydraulic test pressure of 1700 lb/sq in. prior to filling. As indicated above, its use with Gosling II involves no change in external dimensions, which is clearly desirable should a missile contractor wish to install Gosling II motors using missile attachment fittings designed to accept Gosling I. Each missile, however, requires a tube which, although basically the same, differs slightly in minor external dimensions. Details of the different versions of Gosling II motors are shown in Table I.

The steel end-plate to specification DEF13 group 3B is attached to the tube by means of a large diameter screw thread, and has a central hole sufficiently large to accommodate the former required for pressing the propellent charge.

The venturi-nozzle comprises a throat portion fabricated in steel to specification DEF13 group 3B to which is welded a wrapped expansion cone in 12 swg steel. The whole of the internal surface is sprayed with alumina to a thickness diminishing uniformly from 0.020 inch at the throat to 0.005 inch at the exit. A description of this process and the events leading to its introduction in the Gosling II motor are detailed elsewhere. The axis of

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the nozzle is inclined to that of the tube at an angle varying between 0° and 15.5° depending on the application. The nozzle is attached to the end-plate by a ring of set-screws for offset nozzles and by a screw thread for in-line nozzles.

Typical physical and internal ballistic characteristics of the motor are given in Appendix I.

2.2 Propellent charge

The dimensions of the existing former were such as to produce a charge of web thickness 2.01 inch in a 10-inch diameter tube (Fig.2). With a fixed charge design and a pressure limited by the strength of the tube, two characteristics only can be varied; the propellent burning rate and the nozzle-throat size. To attain the shortest burning time the cross-sectional area of the throat must be made as large as possible so that the fastest burning propellent, for a given pressure, may be used. The limiting size for the throat area is reached when the ratio of the cross-sectional area of the conduit to that of the throat is reduced to a point at which propellent erosive burning produces an unacceptably high initial peak pressure. Experience with the Mayfly IV motor had shown that a value of 1.5: 1 for this ratio produced no appreciable erosive burning and it was considered that a reduction to 1.3: 1 might be possible. A throat diameter of 4.4 inches required with the conduit area of 20.07 sq in. produced the 1.3: 1 ratio. The results obtained when attempts were made to reduce this ratio still further will be reported elsewhere.

It was considered that mean and maximum working pressures of 1180 and 1400 lb/sq in. in motors fired at + 15°C would give an adequate margin of safety below the test pressure of the tube (1700 lb/sq in.) when motors were fired at a conditioning temperature of 50°C.

The plastic propellent RD2304G (see Appendix II) was selected as producing a mean pressure of 1180 lb/sq in. when fired with a restriction ratio of 214:1. From the known temperature dependance of this propellent, it was calculated that the corresponding mean and maximum pressures at + 50°C would be 1250 and 1500 lb/sq in. respectively. This gives a factor of safety of 1.13 which was considered adoquate. The burning rate of RD2304G at 1180 lb/sq in. gives a time of burning of 3.1 seconds at 15°C. The rates of burning of a number of lots of propellent RD2304G determined in the strand burner are given in Table II.

2.3 Igniter

The igniter consists of an aluminium canister containing 100 grams of SR371C pyrotechnic composition which is located at the head end of the motor and is supported either on a separate spider or is attached to the pressure plug. An assembled igniter is shown in Fig. 3 and fully described in ref.4.

Some early development firings were carried out using a tubular igniter comprising a paper carton 1 inch diameter by 24 inches long and 100 grams of SR371C (Fig.4). It was bolieved that this type of construction would reduce the ignition shock and would prove beneficial, particularly at low temperature. Further work^{5,6}, however, showed conclusively that no advantage was gained and its use was discontinued.

3 DEVELOPMENT STATIC FIRINGS

During the development, 40 Gosling II motors were fired at ambient temperature with 100% success. Many of these firings were carried out to

assist the missile contractor in the design of boost harnesses and separation mechanisms, or to simulate and investigate anomalous behaviour in flight rounds such as 'g' pulse in Seaslug and flutter in Red Duster. Early firings at low temperature established that -5°C was a reasonable lower limit and since this motor was not destined for service use, firings at extremes of temperature were kept to a minimum. Such firings as were carried out at temperatures below -5°C were in support of a general investigation into the behaviour of plastic propellent at low temperature and the results have been reported? An upper temperature limit of 50°C was fixed as being adequate to cover the requirements of missiles in research and development phases. Details of a number of these firings are given in Table III. Typical pressure - and thrust-time curves are shown in Fig.5 and 6 respectively. The variation of mean pressure, mean thrust and burning time with operating temperature are shown in Fig.7.

4 PROJECTION FIRINGS

The motor was first required to provide the propulsion for a supersonic vehicle. In this application the conditions of velocity (~5000 feet/sec after 3.3 seconds) and acceleration (up to 70g) were severe. The contribution made by Gosling II to this work is reported in ref.7. In this connection Gosling II successfully formed the second stage of two and three stage vehicles. It is also in current use for trials purposes as a boost motor for the three major surface to air missiles - Thunderbird, Bloodhound and Seaslug.

A total of 293 motors has been supplied for use on these missiles and details are given in Table I.

To date three failures have been recorded.

Two took the form of instantaneous bursts on or near the launcher; these were pressure bursts resulting from failure of the propellent to bond to the metal, the third occurred late in burning following overheating of the rear-end of the tube. The steps taken to overcome the instantaneous failures were:-

- (1) An improved adhesive for bonding the propellent to the tube.
- (2) A more rigorous control of the filling and inspection of the motor.
- (3) The introduction of an ultrasonic method for detecting the lack of adhesion of the propellent to the tube wall.

The type of failure resulting from detachment of the propellent from the end-plate was obviated by (in addition to the improvements stated above) the insertion of a steel liner at the rear of the tube. This liner, which has a serrated internal surface, has the dual effect of providing a key for the propellent and acting as a heat shield for the tube in the event of lack of adhesion. The method of filling Gosling motors is given in Specifications RPE 1022 and 1029.

5 CONCLUSIONS

(1) A 10-inch diameter plastic propellent boost motor using a charge of increased performance in an existing tube has been fired successfully on guided missiles and high speed test vehicles under conditions of high acceleration.

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- (2) The advantages of plastic propellent are such as to increase the total impulse by 24,500 lb-sec, or 40% over Gosling I. This increase is gained by greater loading density (approx 29% more propellent) and higher specific impulse (about 8%) of the propellent.
- (3) The motor ignites and performs reliably within the temperature limits -5 to $+50^{\circ}\text{C}$.

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ATTACHED: -

Appendices I and II Tables I to III Drgs.No, RP 2837-2840 Detachable abstract cards

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approximately 3.0 ohms

APPENDIX I

Leading physical and internal ballistic characteristics of Gosling II motor

	4						,	
Weights	(Gosling	TT	Series	C	taken	29	tamical	}
MOTUTION	(O OD TITTE	arbo arbo	Delle	0	COUL CIT	0,00	o's DICCIT	,

Motor tube End-plate Venturi nozzle Filled igniter and support	98 lb 15 lb 23 lb 4 lb
Empty assembly	140 lb
Charge	405 16
All-up weight	545 lb

Charge

Propellent	RD2304G
Length	113 inches
Diameter	10.0 inches
Web thickness	2.01 inches
Initial burning surface area	2760 sq.inches
Final burning surface area	3590 sq.inches
Initial cross-sectional area of	
conduit	20.07 sq.inches

Internal Ballistic Characteristics

Circuit resistance

Throat diameter	4.36 inches
Throat cross-sectional area	14.92 sq.inches
Initial burning surface area/throat area	185 : 1
Final burning surface area/throat area	241 : 1
Initial cross-sectional area of conduit/throat area	1.34 : 1

Initial cross-sectional area of conduity throat area	1.074 . 1
Performance	
Total impulse Burning time at 18°C Mean thrust at 18°C Mean pressure at 18°C	87,000 lb-seconds 3.1 seconds 26,000 lb 1,180 lb/sq in.
Temperature limits Firing current	-5 to +50°C 1.5 to 2.0 mA

APPENDIX II

Characteristics of propellent RD2304G

* Composition

Ammonium percholate	70.5	per	cent
Ammonium picrate	15.0	per	cent
Polyisobutylene	12.5	per	cent
Lecithin	1.0	per	cent
Titanium dioxide	1.0	per	cent

* Physical properties

Density		1.684 gm/cc
Thermal conductivity,	at 30°C	0.0009 cal cm ⁻¹ deg C ⁻¹ sec ⁻¹
	at 60°C	0.0011 cal cm ⁻¹ deg C ⁻¹ sec ⁻¹
	at 100°C	0.0125 cal cm ⁻¹ deg C ⁻¹ sec ⁻¹
Specific heat		0.293 cal/g deg C

Internal ballistic data

Burning rate at 1000 lb/sq in. and 2 Gas temperature, Tc at 1000 lb/sq in	5°C 0.610 in/sec 2350°K
Characteristic exhaust velocity∫ P d	t At g 4620 ft√sec
Theoretical specific impulse Discharge coefficient(C _D) Mean molecular weight of gaseous pro Ratio of specific heats Equilibrium gas composition	233 lb-sec/lb 0.00675 ducts 22.67 1.27
II 0 20 6	n

H ₂ O	28.6 per cent mole fraction
CO2	6.3 per cent mole fraction
CO	23.7 per cent mole fraction
H2	17.9 per cent mole fraction
H	0.1 per cent mole fraction
N	9.7 per cent mole fraction
HCl	13.7 per cent mole fraction

^{*} Information kindly supplied by D/ERDE, Waltham Abbey

TABLE I

Versions of Gosling II motor for missile boost or vehicle application and numbers supplied

offset angle, 0 Supersonic vehicles, Panther, Puma, Regulus, Tiger I 47 10 15 Supersonic vehicle Leopard (forms second stage) 2 0 11½ Thunderbird	\$ (+) M	Venturi	Annliestion	Num	Number of motors supplied by	lied by
Supersonic vehicles, Panther, Puma, Regulus, Tiger I 47 10 Supersonic vehicle Leopard (forms second stage) 2 0 15½ Thunderbird 68 48 11½ Bloodhound 7 50 124 50 14 Thunderbird 65 14 Seaslug 7 14 Thunderbird 60 15 Supersonic vehicle, Tiger IV 7 0 Supersonic vehicle; forms second stage of 3-stage 7 10 Totals 151 142	TO TO	offset angle,		RPE	ROF Bridgwater	Total
0 Supersonic vehicle Leopard (forms second stage) 2 0 15½ Thunderbird 11½ Bloodhound 15 Seaslug 14 Thunderbird 4° 55' Supersonic vehicle, Tiger IV 0 Supersonic vehicle; forms second stage of 3-stage 0 vehicle 151 Totals 162 C4 173 C50 174 C50 175 C50 17	Series C	0	Supersonic vehicles, Panther, Puma, Regulus, Tiger I	24	10	57(1)
15½ Thunderbird 11½ Bloodhound 15 Seaslug 14 Thunderbird 4 50 24 25 24 4 Thunderbird 68 48 68 48 68 48 68 48 69 48 70 25 70 Supersonic vehicle, Tiger IV 60 Supersonic vehicle; forms second stage of 3-stage 7 Supersonic vehicle 7 Supersonic vehicle; forms second stage of 3-stage 7 Totals 7 Totals	А	0	Supersonic vehicle Leopard (forms second stage)	2	0	2
11½ Bloodhound 15 Seaslug 14 Thunderbird 4 Supersonic vehicle, Tiger IV 0 Supersonic vehicle; forms second stage of 3-stage 0 vehicle 15 Totals 151 142	豆	152	Thunderbird	. 68	84	116(2)
15 Seaslug 14 Thunderbird 4 8 4 8 0 Supersonic vehicle; forms second stage of 3-stage 0 vehicle 1 0 Totals 151 142 8	Ö	113	Bloodhound	7	50	54
Thunderbird 4 8 8 4 55' Supersonic vehicle, Tiger IV 0 Supersonic vehicle; forms second stage of 3-stage vehicle Totals 151 142	٦	15	Seaslug	25	57	67
4° 55' Supersonic vehicle, Tiger IV 0 2 Supersonic vehicle; forms second stage of 3-stage 1 0 vehicle 142	У	14	Thunderbird	7	∞	12
Supersonic vehicle; forms second stage of 3-stage vehicle Totals 100	X	166 94	Supersonic vehicle, Tiger IV	0	2	2
151 142	X	0	Supersonic vehicle; forms second stage of 3-stage vehicle	-	0	-
			Totals	151	142	293

Notes: (1) One failure - instantaneous burst just after launch

(2) Two failures - one instantaneous burst on launcher one thermal burst near end of boost burning

TABLE II

Burning rates of propellents RD2304A and RD2304G

Propellent formulation

RD2	304A *			RD23	504G *				
Lot No.	Rate, in/sec	Lot No.	Rate, in/sec	Lot No.	Rate: in/sec	Lot No.	Rate, in/sec	Lot No.	Rate, in/sec
1	0.597	1	0.613	15	0.603	29	0.602	43	0.604
2	0.601	2	0.616	16	0.613	30	0.616	44	0.601
3	0.605	3	0.620	17	0.617	31	0.617	45	0.611
4	0.627	4	0.619	18	0.611	32	0.605	46	0.608
5	ø	5	0.610	19	0.616	33	0.610	47	0.613
6	0.637	6	0.613	20	0.610	34	0.614	48	0.614
7	0.628	7	0.616	21	0.605	35	0.607	49	0.607
		8	0.617	22	0.610	36	0.611	50	0.607
		9	0.617	23	0.611	37	ø	51	0.607
		10	0.607	24	0.605	38	0.605	52	ø
		11	0.605	25	0.601	39	0.608	53	0.608
		12	0.612	26	0.611	40	0.607	54	0.604
		13	0.613	27	0.608	41	0.602		
		14	0.602	28	0.605	42	0.610		

^{*} Propellents RD2304A and RD2304G are identical in every respect; the change of nomenclature arose from confusion resulting from a clerical error. All propellent was made at ROF Bridgwater.

All burning rates were determined at ROF Bridgwater or at RPE on strands 4.5 mm diameter at 1000 lb/sq in.

Ø These lots were re-blended.

TABLE III

Static firing results

September 1	Kemarks	Initial peak pressure	2	4 choke firing																																								Instrumentation failed				
Conditioning	tempoc	-5		Air	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	= :	=		=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	-	= :	E :			= :	=	= :	=	=	=	=	=	50	=	=	*	
Maximum	pressure, lb/sq in.	1470	1390	1200	1210	1430	1370	1450	1420	1430	1290	1500	1450	1220	1417	1377	1357	1441	Not recorded	1479	1378	1399	1387	1370	1452	1457	1361	1348	1400	1430	1329	1436	1360	1368	1330	1352	1478	1390	1480	1380	1384	1326	1320	1500	1590	1450	1530	
Mean	tbrust, lb	25,200	24,300	20,1004	25;600	26,000	25,000	26,700	26,600	27;300	25,300	26,600	26,400	25,700	26,500	26,400	27,400	27,100	27,000	24,300	25:700	26,000	25,200	25,000	24,300	26,200	26,100	25,600	26,000	25,700	24,400	25,600	25,900	26,300	24,200	25,580	26,160	25,900	26,670	26,760	26,000	25,520	25,200	1	30,000	26,300	28,200	
Specific	impulse, lb-sec/lb	219	219	1764	218	216	210	218	220	223	219	222	220	214	220	217	221	22.1	223	206	222	221	219	220	215	217	218	214	220	220	218	220	219	218	213	213	220	219	219	220	218	220	212	ı	222	211	223	
-	impulse, lb-sec	88;900	88,400	72,3804	88:650	87,850	85,200	88,900	89;500	007.06	88;500	89,000	88;800	87,900	88,400	88:300	89,600	89.600	90:300	82,600	89:500	89:200	88.500	88:400	86,000	88,000	87,500	87,000	89,600	89;500	88;700	89,000	89,000	88,700	85,900	88,830	38; 680	87,860	88,980	89,570	88:380	88.870	89,470	.1	91,200	84;700	89,500	
Burning	time, seconds	3.28	3.38	3.29	3.19	3.08	3.15	3.07	3.13	3.10	3.09	3.11	3.12	3.20	3.16	3.10	3.04	3.04	3.09	3-12	3.20	3-11	3.16	3.28	3.28	3.15	3.13	3.23	3.21	3.23	3.22	3.22	3.18	3.08	3.19			3.16	3.11	3.16	3.12	3.20	3.30	2,82	2.87	2.97	2.89	-
.Ignition	delay,	0.12	0.02	70.0	70.0	70.0	0.04	0.03	60.0	0.14	0.03	0.03	0.03	70.0	70.0	70.0	0.04	70.0	0.02	0.02	0.07	0.02	0.02	90.0	0.03	70.0	0.07	70.0	90.0	0.075	90.0	0.10	0.07	0.07	0.11	0.10	0.08	0.07	70.0	90.0	90.0	0.10	60.0	0.10	0.03	0.02	0.09	
Imiter	housing	al hou	= =	ular (ŧ	=	=	Metal housed	=	Tubular	*	=	=	=	=	=	Metal housed		=======================================	=	**			# #	=	#	=======================================	#	=	# #	=	=	=	=	#	=	=======================================	=	=	**	=	=	# #	Tubular	Metal housed	11	
ge weight,	20	8	ω -	+ +	17		2	14	0	0	:13	0	12	12	14	10	0	0	00	12	200	0 0	10	0	000	0	80	12			2	7	10	ω	ω	00	0	0	0	0	00				0	7.	~~	
Charge	119	904	403	1,12		907	907	907	407	907	707	705	403	408	402					3		-	707				399						-		1403					7 407					411		402	-
lent	Lot No,	WA17	9	10	1	- 80	6	0	WA17	WA17	WA1	WA2	WA3	WA7	WA7		3 % 4	28	40	10	11 & 12	3 4		2		ન્સ	17 & 18	સ્ક	19 & 20	8	24 to 26	2	24 to 26	2	39	38,40,4	22, 23	22, 23	27.28.2	31.32.3	34:35:3	45.46.4	42.43.4	WA17	WA17	10	9	
Propellent	Designation	RD2304A	1 N :	PD 30%	=	£	=	E	=	*	RD2304A	=	=	=	=	RD2 304G	=	=	=	=		=	+	=	=	=	=	=	=	#	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	RT2301.A		RD2304G	=	
	Date	5	7-11-58		, K	110	, CV	7	7	, 10	1	7	7	-	-	7	7	- 0	10	1		- 5	1 5	1			. 10	77	7	7	0	0		12	-	w)	7	7	7	0	1	7	- 12	100	1	-	3.11.58	
Round	No.		263		- 20	# 53	n 79	80	66 "	100	" 116	n 117	118	187	188	" 213	" 22-3	# 253	= 250	- 200	1 283	288	1 289	160 =	70%	m 312	n 330	# 350	361	n 373		11 391	m 395		121	IIE BGW 28	=		IIG BGW 11	=	11 37			10 PWR 98	-	" 262	" 266	

All igniters contained 100 grams of SR 371C pyrotechnic composition except (1), which contained 150 grams. fitted with 4.36 inch diameter nozzles. All motors were

Motors prefixed 10PWE were produced at RPE Westcott; those prefixed BGW at ROF Bridgwater.

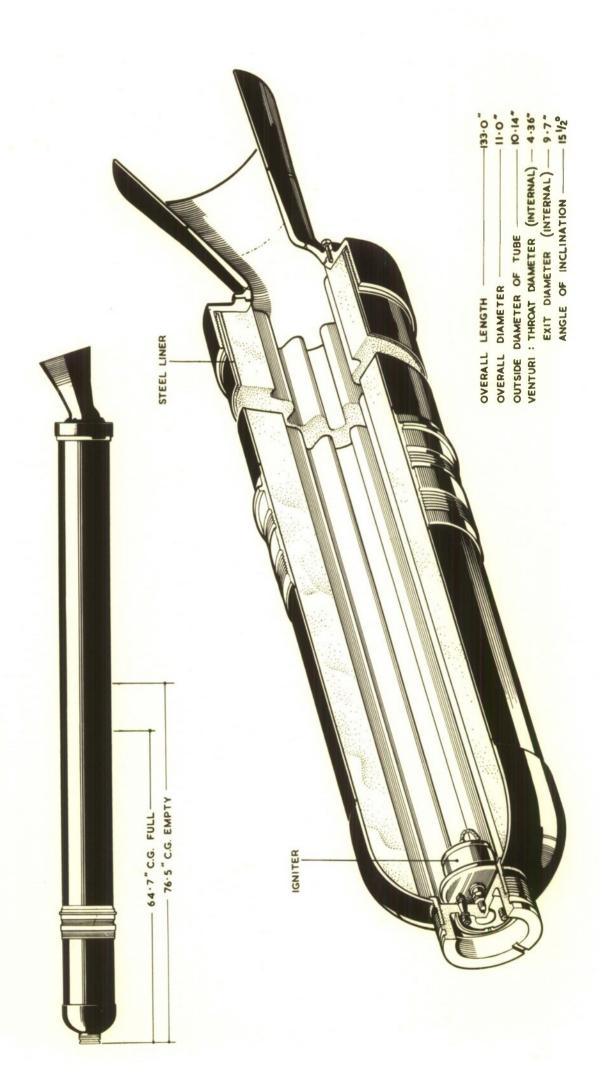
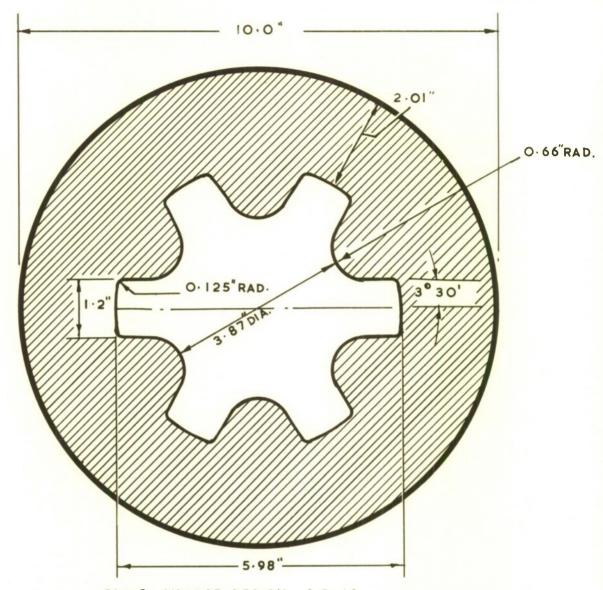


FIG. I ASSEMBLY OF GOSLING II MOTOR



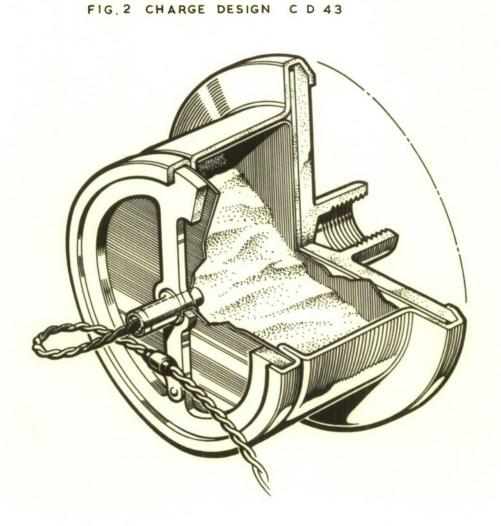
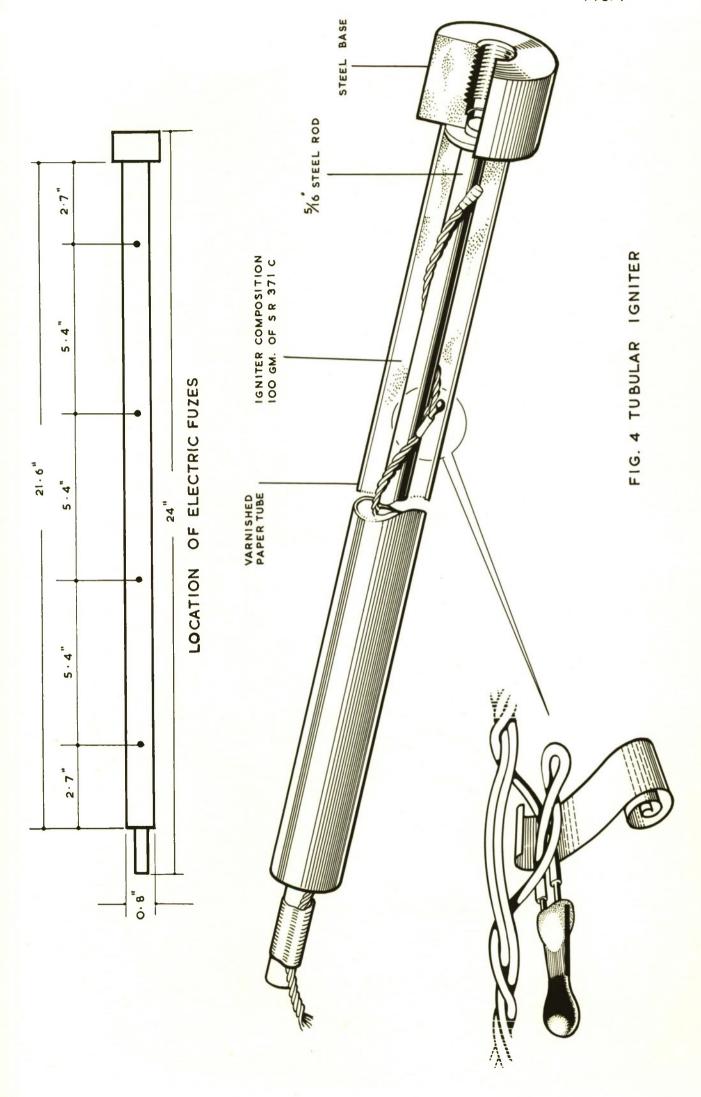


FIG. 3 METAL HOUSED IGNITER



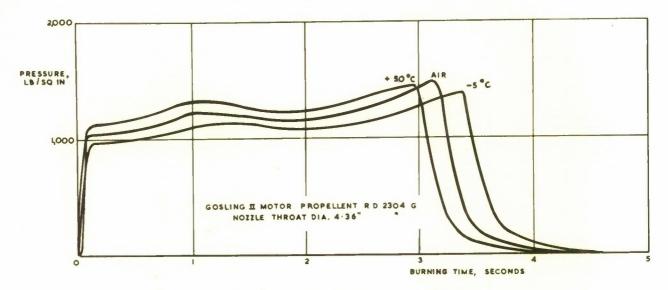


FIG. 5 TYPICAL PRESSURE - TIME CURVES

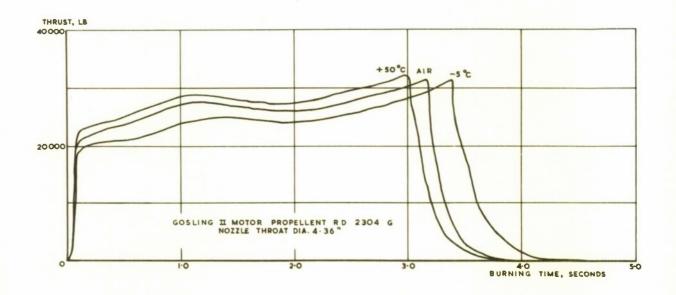


FIG. 6 TYPICAL THRUST - TIME CURVES

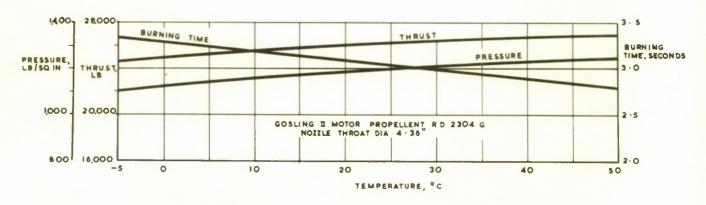


FIG. 7 VARIATION OF MEAN PRESSURE, THRUST & BURNING TIME WITH OPERATING PRESSURE

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